



The Compassionate Friends

Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Lake-Porter County Indiana Chapter

October 2017

Contacts

National TCF 1-877-969-0010
www.compassionatefriends.org

Regional Coordinators:
Please contact National

Lake-Porter County Chapter Leader:
Sue Williams
70 W. 700 N.
Valparaiso, IN 46385
1-219-462-0921

Josie Duncan
3817 E. 157th
Hebron, IN 46341
219-765-3094

Crown Point Facilitator:
Marilyn Rollins - 219-671-4643

Valparaiso Facilitator:
Sue Williams - 219-462-0921

Our Local Web Page Address:
<http://lake-portertcf.homestead.com>

Mission Statement

The mission of The Compassionate Friends: When a child dies, at any age, the family suffers intense pain and may feel hopeless and isolated. The Compassionate Friends provides highly personal comfort, hope, and support to every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild, and helps others better assist the grieving family.

We never intentionally delete or leave out a child's name or list incorrect information, but lists are passed from person to person and time passes by and occasionally something gets missed by accident. If we miss your child, or you notice something incorrect, please let us know and we will correct it in the next issue.

Meeting Times and Locations

1st Presbyterian Church
218 S. Court St.
Crown Point, IN 46307
(Parking on Main St. Side)

3rd Tuesday of every month
7:00 PM

Our Lady of Sorrows
(Seven Dolors Shrine)
356 W. Seven Mile Rd.
(700 North)
Valparaiso (S. Haven), IN 46385

1st Thursday of every month
7:00 PM

How to reach the Editor:

Please feel free to comment or make suggestions in regard to the Newsletter.

The cut-off date for submitting information to the newsletter is the Friday following the Crown Point meeting.

Marilyn Rollins
569 W 650 S
Hebron, IN 46341
(219) 671-4643

tcfnews@yahoo.com

In this age of identity theft, we **do not** publish the year of a child's birth or death.

To Our New Members

Coming to your first meeting is the hardest thing to do. But you have nothing to lose and everything to gain. Try not to judge your first meeting as to whether or not TCF will work for you. The second, third, or fourth meeting might be the time you will find the right person - or just the right words said that will help you in your grief work.

Reprinted from TCF Metrowest Chapter Jan-Feb 2001

Valparaiso New Members:

Bill Fennel who lost his daughter, Caitlyn, age 24.

Maryann Gust, who lost her son, Derek, age 30.

Tina Lyons, who lost stepson, Derek, age 30.

To Our Old Members

*We need your encouragement and support. You are the string that ties our group together and the glue that makes it stick. Each meeting we have new parents. **THINK BACK...** what would it have been like for you if there had not been any "oldies" to welcome you, share your grief, and encourage you? It was from them you heard, "your pain will not always be this bad; it really does get softer."*



October Angelversaries

Melissa	Anderson	10/25	16
Nick	Anoe	10/2	27
Madison	Beckman	10/6	21
Steven	Blount	10/21	25
Frank Anthony	Bianchi	10/3	53
Brian	Bottos	10/18	1
Ruth Ann	Brakenridge	10/7	39
Kyle	Brewster	9/17	20
Jacob	Brown	10/20	17
Jenny	Brown	10/9	20
Kelly	Brooks	10/4	16
Justin	Carr	10/10	23
Dylonna	Carr	10/30	5 mo
Petra	DeJesus	10/28	22
Calvin	Drake Jr.	10/12	18 mo
Travis	Duncan	10/22	16
Mark A.	Edwards	10/9	19
Beau	Fiscus	12/12	35
Frank	Fites	10/3	54
Ian	Frank	10/4	6
Ricardo	Gallegos	10/18	20
Michael	Gartner	10/26	32
Cynthia Renee	Gomez	10/12	19
Ruth	Hagenow	10/4	6
John	Hartwig	10/20	38
Andrew Brian	Hans	10/19	30
Jasen	Jahovic	10/15	infant
Michael	Kasper	10/28	17
Kerry Ann	Keca	10/15	
Alexander	Klawinski	10/12	infant
Tristan	Lembcki	10/15	6 mo
Brant	Martin	10/17	29
Alec	Matalin	7/14	17
Joseph	McDonald	10/25	infant
Kelly	Mercaldo	10/4	16
Joseph	Merhalski	10/7	31
Anthony	Mogan	10/5	18 mo
Jayla Joy	Morrow	10/12	Infant
Matthew	Nordyke	5/31	25
Renee	Ohrn	10/1	19
Paul	Patterson	10/20	29
Elena Anne	Poortenga	2/4	2 yrs.
Tracy	Quinn	10/20	20
Lily	Reid	10/13	infant
Daniel	Robertson	10/19	25
Julie	Rothenberg	10/4	17
Charles	Salerno	10/29	61
Erin"Fudd"	Schutz	10/5	26
Alex	Simon	10/24	19 wks
Teresa	Sjaasheim	10/8	34
Terri	Stover	10/31	46
Victoria	Tomczak	10/19	4
Alex	Trapani	10/31	infant
John	Trowbridge	10/22	23
Dave	Unate	10/23	27
Billy	Knias	10/26	39
Delainey Belle	Woloszyn	10/16	23 months
Tilor	Zajcek	10/20	2 mo



*My Sweet Holly Ann,
Another Birthday without you, but I will try
to remember all the fun times. I will light
a candle for you and wish that you were
here, but instead you are with the Angels
now, flying up above. You are always on my
mind and forever in my heart. Sending you
all my love.*

*Forever,
Mom*

As parents find hope and healing within the group, they often make a **"Love Gift"** to our Chapter. **Love gifts are tax deductible** and enable us to continue to reach out to other bereaved families. **Thank You to the following people who have sent in Love Gifts this month.....**

Louise Hieber, in loving memory of her daughter, Holly Ann, on her birthday.

DOB: November 10th

DOD: July 11th

Forever 26

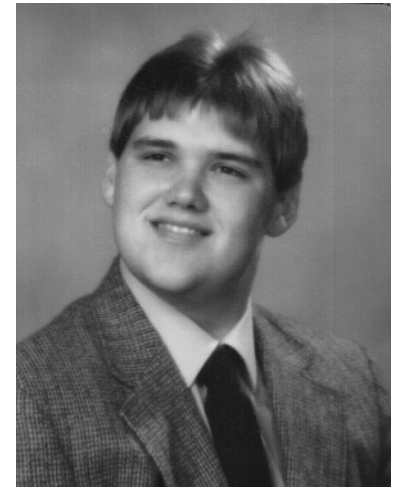


Marilyn Rollins, in loving memory of her son, Randy, on his birthday.

DOB: November 7th

DOD: September 22nd

Forever 37



Happy Birthday Randy.

I remember so well the day that you you were born, all 9 lbs15 ozs of you! While I was in the hospital, there was a small earthquake tremor and I remember, my room mate said to me, "oh that's just your kid coming down the hall". We laughed so hard. You started out big, and you became bigger than life itself. You loved people and would always do what you could to help. Your belief in God, and your faith, carried you through life. I know that you had to go, because you weren't going to let your daughter go alone. That is just who you were. There was never a day that I wasn't proud of you and the husband and father that you became. On this, your eleventh birthday in Heaven, know that we still miss you as much as we did on the first one, if not more. I rest easy though, because you said, that when it is my time, you will come for me. I am so thankful for that message from you. You and Sara celebrate your birthday well, and we will do the same down here. I love you so much.

Mom

FALL

It is so hard to believe that summer is over! Even though summer is technically still here until September, the cool evenings we have been having, school starting, and football games being played are all signs that fall is here. And I love it!

To me, fall is the most invigorating time of the year. The crispness of the air, the beautiful coloration of the trees, the smell of leaf and wood smoke, the sky full of birds traveling south "talking" with one another as they go, are all part of this wonderful world we live in. I hope all of you will be able to feel and see the wonders of fall.

Sometimes we are so "down" and preoccupied with our child's death, and we are working so hard to just get through each day, that we are unable to appreciate what is going on in the world around us. Try to take a few minutes each day and look around. If you can focus on a beautiful tree or leaf, smell the chrysanthemums blooming in the garden or bite into a fresh apple just picked and enjoy doing this for just a few minutes, it will make your day seem brighter. And, if you are up to it, go to a high school football game or a band competition. The enthusiasm of the young people participating in these events is contagious.

Yes, it sometimes hurts. We want our children to be there also, enjoying these activities. But it also gives us renewed faith that life does go on, and there is happiness and excitement in the world. I hope you all can find some beauty and peace in the fall months ahead. Peggy Hartzell, TCF Ambler, PA.

From the Editor

TCF Annual Candle Lighting Event

I hope you like the new newsletter. If anyone has any suggestions, please let me know.

The Compassionate Friends would like to wish Josie Duncan, our co-leader, a get well soon, wish. We missed you at the last meeting.

Don't forget that we are beginning to plan our annual Candle Lighting. If you would like to help, please let Sue know. This year it will be held on December 10th, again at the Marian Center at Franciscan Health, Crown Point. (St. Anthony's)

If you already have a picture of your child in the slide show at the candle lighting, within the last 10-15 years, you do not need to do anything. If you are new to TCF and would like your child's picture in the slide show, please send a picture to tcfnews@yahoo.com. We would prefer digital pictures. If you are unable to do that, please contact your meeting facilitator for instructions.

You may bring your own candle, but note that tapered candles are not allowed. We will have candles available there. If you would like a picture button of your child, bring a snapshot and we will make one for you. One free button per person, please. The button is 2.25 inches in circumference, so make sure your picture is not too large.

We ask that you bring you a dessert to share during our fellowship, after the candlelighting.

Thanks,
Marilyn

Oak Brook, IL - The Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle Lighting, which unites family and friends around the globe in lighting candles for one hour to honor the memories of the sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, and grandchildren who left too soon, is scheduled to be held on Sunday, December 10th, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. As candles are lit at 7:00 p.m. local time, hundreds of thousands of persons commemorate and honor the memory of all children gone too soon.

Now believed to be the largest mass candle lighting on the globe, the 20th annual Worldwide Candle Lighting, a gift to the bereavement community from The Compassionate Friends, creates a virtual 24-hour wave of light as it moves from time zone to time zone.

Started in the United States in 1997 as a small internet observance, the event has since swelled in numbers as word has spread throughout the world of the remembrance. Hundreds of formal candle lighting events are held and thousands of informal candle lightings are conducted in homes as families gather in quiet remembrance of children who have died, but will never be forgotten.

Love Gifts---Please Print

Please send your love gifts, made payable to The Compassionate Friends, to:

Tim Kreke
912 Aaron Ct.
Crown Point, IN 46307
sailord19@gmail.com

Must be in by the 3rd Wednesday of the month to appear in the next newsletter.
Please fill out all sections.

Love gift Received From: _____

In loving memory of: _____

Relationship _____

Child's Name: _____

Your phone# _____

Love Gift in Remembrance of:

Child's Birthday:

Death Anniversary:

Other: _____

Picture on file?* Yes _____ No _____

*If we do not have a picture on file, you may send or e-mail one. tcfnews@yahoo.com

Child's Birth Date: _____

Death Date _____

Age to be Remembered _____



The Compassionate Friends
Supporting Family After a Child Dies

Light a candle for all children who have died

Worldwide Candle Lighting®

... that their light may always shine.

Sunday, December 10, 2017
7 PM Around the Globe



Lake-Porter County Chapter
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If you would rather **not**
receive this Newsletter,
please call or drop us a note
to the above address.

October 2017

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CREDO

We need not walk alone, we are The Compassionate Friends. We reach out to each other with love, with understanding and with hope. Our children have died at all ages and from many different causes, but our love for our children unites us. Your pain becomes my pain, just as your hope becomes my hope. We come together from all walks of life, from many different circumstances. We are a unique family because we represent many races and creeds. We are young and we are old. Some of us are far along in our grief, others still feel a grief so fresh and so intensely painful that we feel helpless and feel no hope. Some of us have found our faith to be a source of strength, some of us are struggling to find answers. Some of us are angry, filled with guilt or in deep depression, others radiate an inner peace. But, whatever pain we bring to this gathering of The Compassionate Friends, it is pain we will share, just as we share with each other the love of our children. We are all seeking and struggling to build a future for ourselves, but we are committed to building that future together as we reach out to each other in love, and share the pain as well as the joy, share the anger as well as the peace, share the faith as well as the doubt, and help each other to grieve as well as to grow. We need not walk alone! We are The Compassionate Friends.